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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,154	01/31/2002	Lawrence A. Denenberg	23484-011	3555

7590

09/06/2006

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 09/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,154

Applicant(s)

DENENBERG ET AL.

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/28/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 28, 2006, has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Weber (US Patent No. 6,434,524).

Weber discloses a system and method for interacting with objects, via a computer using utterances, speech processing and natural language processing.

3. Regarding claim 1, Weber discloses an apparatus, system and method implementing a general purpose computer (102) including associated memory (108) storage (col. 5, lines 27-29);

Art Unit: 2626

a voice application platform (“voice interaction system) including a speech recognizer (200) for recognizing speech as a function of said unit of input information (col. 4, lines 13-17); and a command processor (202) adapted for analyzing a first unit of input information. Additionally, Weber teaches the system allows for adding to the context-specific grammars (col. 8, lines 38-45; col. 15, line 6 to col. 16, line 65; Figure 7A) and provides for a first application (accessing a help file or browsing the world wide web) configured to output a grammar (context-specific grammar files and context-specific dictation models) and to receive a user selection (speech interactions available to the user) associated with the grammar; a voice application platform (col. 4, lines 13-17) adapted to receive a speech input and to receive the grammar from the first application (DDF file transferred), and to output the user selection (speech interactions) to the first application, the voice application platform including a processor (col. 3, lines 39-50) configured to analyze the grammar, to identify at least one characteristic of the grammar (context-specific grammar), and to modify the grammar based on the at least one characteristic (col. 12, line 60 continuing to col. 13, line 24), and a speech recognizer (200) coupled to the processor and configured to interpret the speech input (speech interactions available to the user) as a function of the data input object, and to produce the user selection.

Regarding claim 3, Weber discloses characteristic is indicative that said first unit of input information includes a set of terms and said first unit of input information is modified to produce said modified first unit of input information that includes at least one additional term not included in said first unit of input information (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 4, Weber discloses at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 5, Weber discloses at least one additional term can be part of a phrase within which at least one term in said set of terms can be used (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 6, Weber discloses at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 7, Weber discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is a synonym of at least one term in said set of terms (col. 10, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 8, Weber discloses said set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term, whereby said first function is adapted to include in a response to be sent to said application, at least one term in said set of terms (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 9, Weber discloses first function is further adapted for substituting said at least one term in said set of terms for said at least one additional term in a response to be sent to said application (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 10, Weber discloses set of terms is representative of a set of responses expected to be received by said application and said at least one additional term is associated

Art Unit: 2626

with a first function that can be performed when said voice application platform recognizes said at least one addition term, whereby said first function is adapted to include, in a response to be sent to said application, a term selected from a memory as a function of said at least one additional term recognized by said voice application platform (col. 8, lines 38-41; col. 9, lines 8-17; col. 9, lines 42-63; col. 12, lines 51-67).

Regarding claim 11, Weber discloses term selected from a memory is associated with a user of said voice application platform (col. 10, lines 4-16).

Regarding claim 13, Weber discloses said first unit of input information includes a first type of input information associated with a first speech recognizer based upon a first speech recognition paradigm ("context-specific grammar") and said first unit of input information is modified to produce a second unit of input information which includes a second type of input information associated with a second speech recognizer based upon a second speech recognition paradigm ("general grammar") which is different from said first speech recognition paradigm (col. 3, lines 8-11).

Regarding claim 16, Weber discloses a prompt synthesizer (col. 12, lines 47-50) adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein said first unit of input information includes information representative of a prompt and said command processor receives said information representative of a prompt and said command processor modifies said first unit of input information as a function of said information representative of a prompt (col. 12, lines 52-59).

Regarding claim 17, Weber discloses (col. 12, lines 45-59) a prompt synthesizer adapted for receiving information representative of a prompt, and wherein information representative of a

Art Unit: 2626

first prompt is received from said application and said voice application platform is adapted for presenting said first prompt to a user and a second prompt to said user.

4. Regarding claims 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133: claims 18, 20-24, 27-28, 30-35, 37-44, 48, 50-57, 59, 61, 63-73, 75, 77-79, 82, 84-89, 91, 93-101, 103, 106-108, 110-114, 117-118, and 120-133 are similar in scope and content to claims 1, 3-11, 13, and 16-17 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.


Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed June 28, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues Weber does not teach, disclose or suggest a processor configured to analyze a grammar. The Examiner cannot concur, since Weber teaches the object interactive user interface using speech recognition and language processing updates the NLP database, general grammar and context-specific grammar to include new information related to the user's responses during the context-based interactive dialog. This update or modification to the grammar provides for the system adaptively learning to recognize phrases uttered by the user, so that the next time the user asks for information, a proper match will be found and appropriate actions taken without prompting the user for more information. The fact that the system can determine or detect that the information received during the context-based interactive dialog is not already available in the context-specific grammar, the general grammar and/or the NLP database and needs to be added for future recognition sessions, necessarily requires the system performing some level of analysis and/or processing of the grammars.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Angela A. Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
September 5, 2006

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 1,3-11,13,16-18,20-24,27,28,30-35,37-44,48,50-57,59,61,63-73,75,77-79,82,84-89,91,93-101,103,106-108,110-114,117,118 and 120-133.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims rejected are 1,3-11,13,16-18,20-24,27,28,30-35,37-44,48,50-57,59,61,63-73,75,77-79,82,84-89,91,93-101,103,106-108,110-114,117,118 and 120-133.